

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the NEW PHYTOLOGIST.

SIR,

I shall be very much obliged if any of your readers can give me information as to the best methods of staining and permanently mounting unicellular organisms as microscopic preparations. Having to deal with these minute organisms (e.g.: the *Protococcoideæ*), in the course of my teaching work I find considerable difficulty in illustrating those points of structure which cannot be observed on living material, and in making permanent preparations of forms not easily obtainable at will. I want hints as to methods of dealing with such forms satisfactorily, not involving too elaborate or difficult technique, from someone who is more experienced than myself in such work.

I am, Sir,

Yours, etc.,

A TEACHER.

Dec. 20th, 1901.

NOTE ON
BOTANICAL TEACHING IN UNIVERSITY CLASSES,

By A. C. SEWARD, F.R.S.,

University Lecturer in Botany, Cambridge.

AT the Glasgow meeting of the British Association in September, 1901, the Botanical and Educational sections held a joint discussion on the teaching of Botany. One of the most valuable contributions on the subject of University Teaching was made by Professor Miall¹ of the Yorkshire College, Leeds, who gave an account of the methods which he adopts in an elementary course in Biology. Professor Miall expressed himself in favour of Laboratory practice as the most important part of teaching, and stated that his preference for this side of the work had led him to give up the formal lecture and to adopt a system very different from that usually followed by University teachers. The students begin their work in the laboratory, where they receive such assistance from demonstrators as enables them to employ the best practical methods; an adjournment is then made to the lecture-room, and a few of the students are called upon to give an account of their observations in the laboratory. Whereas in most courses, the lecture usually precedes the practical work, in

¹"Nature," Oct. 10, 1901. p. 593.

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